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Royal Geographical Society,

1863.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL,

READ AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING ON THE 25TH MAY.

THE Council have the pleasure to lay before the Society the Accounts of the past year, and their annual Report of progress. They have also to submit to the General Meeting certain changes proposed in the existing Rules of the Society, consequent upon the retirement of the Acting Secretary, Dr. Norton Shaw.

Members—Ordinary, Honorary, and Corresponding.—Since the last Anniversary 190 Fellows have been elected, and the list of Members now extends to 1800 Ordinary and 52 Honorary and Corresponding Members. Our Obituary for the same period reaches to 40 Members, and includes many honoured names.

Finances.—The Balance-sheet annexed shows a steady increase of annual subscriptions, and a general accordance with the estimate submitted to the last General Meeting.

The permanent fund now amounts to 9500*l.* New 3 per Cents., affording satisfactory proof of the prosperous financial position of the Society.

Publications.—The 32nd volume of the Journal, edited by Dr. Norton Shaw, is now ready for issue; it contains numerous illustrative Maps, and is the largest volume ever published by the Society.

Of the Proceedings, edited by Mr. Galton and Mr. Spottiswoode, Nos. 3, 4, and 5 of Vol. VI., and Nos. 1 and 2 of Vol. VII., have been published, and transmitted to the Members. Copies of both these publications have been, as customary, forwarded to the principal Scientific and Literary Institutions at home and abroad.

Map-Rooms.—The accessions to this department since the last Anniversary consist of 830 Maps and Charts, and two Atlases, all of which have been mounted on the establishment, and arranged in geographical order.

The facility of access to these important documents has been largely tested during the past year by Statesmen and Travellers; also for general purposes of scientific research, and the collection of data for geographical works in course of publication. The following may be specially noticed :—Ordnance Maps of England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, on various scales; Charts of the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty, and by the Dépôt de la Marine of France; the Government Maps of Bavaria, Denmark, Holland, Sweden, and Switzerland; Maps of Italy and the Austrian Empire, presented by the Austrian Government through the Commissioners of the International Exhibition, viz. :—Grand Duchy of Tuscany, on 52 sheets; Map of Hungary, on 17 sheets; General Map of the Austrian Empire, 10 sheets; Dalmatia, on 16 sheets; Vienna and environs, on 52 sheets, mounted and varnished; 15 sheets of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, mounted and varnished, in gilt frame; Reymann's large Map of Central Europe, on 405 sheets, presented by M. Carl Flemming, of Glogau; Carnbée's Atlas, 9 sheets; Magnetic Chart, by M. Jules A. Lelaisant, of Paris; Maps of Portugal, through Count Lavradio; Topographical Survey of part of the Himalaya Mountains, under the superintendence of General Sir A. S. Waugh; various Maps of Denmark, by the Society of Northern Antiquaries, through the Secretary, Professor C. C. Rafn; Carte du Luban, by the Dépôt de la Guerre of France; Russia in Europe, on 12 sheets, by the Geographical Society of St. Petersburg; the River Yang-tsze-Kiang, by Captain T. Blakiston, R.A., F.R.G.S.; Russian Map of a Route from Pekin to Kiakta, presented by C. M. Grant, Esq.; Black's new Atlas of the World and Map of Scotland; Statistical Maps of Sweden, by Major August Hahr; Ethnological Map of Finland, sheets 4 and 5, by J. A. Fries; Japanese Atlas, 12 sheets, by Siebold, presented by Major E. D. Malcolm, R.E.; Clark's Map of the Holy Land, by E. Stanford; Fullarton's Atlas; continuation of Philip's Imperial Library Atlas; Stanford's Library Map of Asia, constructed by A. K. Johnston; and various MS. maps from the Expeditions under Livingstone, Speke, and Grant, M'Douall Stuart, Landsborough, Walker, and M'Kinlay, &c.

Library.—The additions to this department since the last Anniversary comprise 735 books and pamphlets, including 27 volumes by purchase. Among these may be noticed Barrett-Lennard's 'Travels in British Columbia;' Underhill's 'West Indies;' Worms 'On the Earth and its Mechanism;' Pim's 'Gate of the Pacific;' Arbuthnot's 'Herzegovina;' 'Bombay Magnetical and Meteorological Observations for 1860;' 'Report upon the Physics and Hydraulics of the Mississippi River;' Gether's 'Gedanken über die Naturkraft;' Trap's 'Statistical and Topographical Work on the Kingdom of Denmark,' 5 vols. 8vo., presented by Captain Irminger of the Royal Danish Navy; 'Report upon the Colorado River of the West, explored in 1857-58, by Lieut. J. C. Ives;' 'Almanaque Nautico para 1864;' and Wills' 'Expedition into Australia;' also the Transactions of the principal Literary and Scientific Institutions.

Instruments.—The prize of 50*l.* or a Gold Medal to the designer or maker of the most serviceable reflecting instrument for the measurement of angles is still open for competition; specifications may be obtained at the office of the Society. Instruments have been lent to Dr. D. Walker, R.N., F.R.G.S., who left England in December, 1862, to explore the North-West Coast of America; to M. Jules Gérard, who left England last February for Western Africa; to Captain B. C. Pim, R.N., F.R.G.S., to determine a line of railway across Central America from Gorgon Bay to the Lake of Nicaragua; and to other travellers.

Expeditions.—Telegraphic messages have been received from Alexandria, announcing the arrival of Captains Speke and Grant at Khartúm, and the settlement of the great question—the sources of the Nile.

Royal Premium.—The Founder's Gold Medal for the encouragement of geographical science and discovery has been awarded to Mr. Frank T. Gregory for his successful explorations in Western Australia, during which he fixed astronomically 58 positions for latitude and 19 for longitude; and the Patron's or "Victoria Gold Medal" has been awarded to Mr. John Arrowsmith for the very important services he has rendered to geographical science in general, and especially to the Royal Geographical Society from its foundation to the present time.

Gold Watches, bearing honorary inscriptions, have also been awarded to Mr. William Landsborough, to Mr. John M'Kinlay, and to Mr. Frederick Walker, for their successful explorations in Australia.

Secretaries.—The retirement of Dr. Norton Shaw, who has for many years filled the onerous offices of Acting Secretary and Editor of the Journals, during which period the Society has so largely increased in numbers and in financial prosperity, calls for the best wishes of all its members for the improvement of his health and likewise for a substantial acknowledgment of his valuable services. In recognition of these services, extending over more than fourteen years, it has been unanimously agreed by the Council to recommend that a sum of 500*l.* be presented to him by the Society.

The Honorary Secretaries have also resigned their offices, and are entitled to the thanks of the Meeting for their valuable and gratuitous labours.

Regulations.—The Council, in reconstructing the administrative arrangements of the Society, have, after mature deliberation, decided to recommend the following changes, viz. :—

That in place of three *Honorary* Secretaries there shall be, besides the Foreign Secretary, two Secretaries, who, by virtue of their office, shall be members of the Council and of all Committees appointed by the Council, and who shall have authority over all the salaried officers of the Society.

That a Foreign Secretary be appointed, who shall also be an *ex officio* member of the Council, and whose duties shall be similar to those of the *Honorary* Foreign Secretary under existing regulations.

That an Assistant-Secretary, a salaried officer, resident at the Society's apartments, be appointed, who shall be Editor of the Society's publications; have charge, under the Secretaries, of the property of the Society on the premises; and exercise a general supervision over the subordinate officers and servants of the Society.

Upon adoption of the Report, resolutions authorizing the requisite changes in the existing regulations of the Society will be submitted.

House.—By the kind permission of the Senate of the London University and the Council of the Royal Society, the Evening Meetings continue to be held at Burlington House.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR THE YEAR 1862.

Receipts.

	£.	s.	d.
Cash Balances in hand	1070	14	3
Subscriptions of 1100 Fellows	2195	0	0
Compositions of 34 Fellows	846	0	0
Entrance Fees of 181 Fellows	543	0	0
Parliamentary Grant	500	0	0
Sale of Publications, and Advertisements	110	17	7
Dividends on Stock	209	6	11
Subscriptions in Arrear	160	0	0
Royal Premium Grant	52	10	0
Subscriptions overpaid	13	2	0
Rent of Stables, less Taxes	29	11	3
	£5730	2	0

Expenditure.

				£.	s.	d.
Publications—Journal and Proceedings				948	11	3
Salaries—Secretary, Curator, and Clerks				822	10	0
Rent, Taxes, and Wages, &c.				721	2	10
Library and Map-Rooms				138	12	3
Office Expenses				380	18	0
Gold Medals and other Awards				72	5	0
Overpaid Subscriptions returned				12	0	0
Investments, 1500*l.* New 3 per Cents.				1389	7	6
Cash Balance—Bankers	£1211	6	8			
Petty Cash	33	8	6			
				1244	15	2
				£5730	2	0

ROBERT BIDDULPH, *Treasurer.*

Audited 19th March, 1863.

E. OSBORNE SMITH,
CHARLES WHITE,
JOHN C. MARSHMAN, } *Auditors.*

ESTIMATE FOR THE YEAR 1863.

Receipts.

	£.	s.	d.
Cash Balance, 1st Jan., 1863	1244	15	2
Annual Subscriptions	2300	0	0
Life Compositions	700	0	0
Entrance Fees	450	0	0
Arrears of Subscriptions	100	0	0
Royal Premium Grant	52	10	0
Parliamentary Grant	500	0	0
Sale of Publications	100	0	0
Dividends and Small Receipts	300	0	0
	£5747	5	2

Expenditure.

	£.	s.	d.
Journal and Proceedings	1000	0	0
Rent, Taxes, and House Expenses	700	0	0
Salaries—Assistant-Secretary, Curator, and Clerks	900	0	0
Gratuity to a Secretary	500	0	0
Library and Map-Rooms	250	0	0
Office Expenses, Postage, Stamps, &c.	350	0	0
Investment for Permanent Fund	1850	0	0
Gold Medals and other Awards	120	0	0
Sundries for Balance	77	5	2
	£5747	5	2

SUMMARY OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS

FROM 14TH JULY, 1830, TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1862.

Receipts.

	£.	s.	d.
Entrance Fees	7,863	0	0
Life Compositions	13,490	0	0
Annual Subscriptions	25,043	3	0
Grants in Aid	10,943	5	0
Royal Premiums	1,680	0	0
Sales of Geographical Publications	3,518	6	9
Dividends and other Receipts	5,315	4	0
Sales of Stock invested	2,963	5	2
	£70,816	3	11

Payments.

	£.	s.	d.
Rent, Fixtures, and Fittings	12,755	19	9
Office Expenses	6,027	6	5
Salaries—Secretary, Curator, Librarian, and Clerks	13,094	5	0
Cost of Geographical Publications	15,012	9	9
Purchase of Books, Maps, and Instruments	3,102	1	4
Grants in Aid of Expeditions	7,786	8	0
Medals and other Premiums	1,834	7	0
Life Compositions invested	9,721	17	6
Subscriptions returned	236	14	0
	£69,571	8	9
Bankers' Balance and Petty Cash	1,244	15	2
	£70,816	3	11

E. OSBORNE SMITH, F.R.G.S.